

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 ACDA-19 RSR-01 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 CIAE-00

PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 TRSE-00 AEC-11 /125 W

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R 151319 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5720

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 08556

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: GW. PFOR, MILI

SUBJECT: FRG DEFMIN MEETING WITH DUTCH DEFMIN VREDELING

1. ADMIRAL TREBESCH (FMOD POL/ MIL) TOLD US THAT FOL-
LOWING THE LEBER- VREDELING MEETING IN BONN ON JUNE 5 THE
GERMANS ARE CONFIDENT THAT MINISTER VREDELING PLANS NO
EARLY STEPS TOWARD A REDUCTION OF THE COMBAT CAPABILITY
OF THE DUTCH FORCES. EXPLAINING THAT THE JUNE 5 MEETING
WAS HELD ON A HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL BASIS, TREBESCH SAID
BOTH LEBER AND VREDELING FEAR A PUBLIC LEAK ABOUT THE
MEETING MIGHT LIMIT THEIR CHANCES FOR FUTURE PRIVATE CON-

SULTATIONS ON DEFENSE PROBLEMS. TREBESCH SAID THAT IN
THE COURSE OF THE CONVERSATIONS THE GERMANS BECAME CON-
VINCED THAT VREDELING PERSONALLY WANTS TO KEEP DUTCH
FORCES AT THEIR CURRENT LEVEL, ALTHOUGH THEY RECOGNIZE
HE WILL BE UNDER PRESSURE FROM SOME QUARTERS TO CUT DUTCH
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DEFENSE EXPENDITURES. VREDELING REPORTEDLY SAID THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO BE REMEMBERED AS THE MINISTER WHO " KILLED THE DUTCH FORCES", BUT HE STRONGLY BELIEVED THAT THE DUTCH FORCES AND DEFENSE EFFORT MUST BE REORGANIZED AND RATIONALIZED. ON THE LANCE PROCUREMENT ISSUE, VREDELING SAID THE LANCE PURCHASE WOULD SET OFF AN UNDESIRABLE DEBATE IN THE NETHERLANDS ABOUT NUCLEAR AFFAIRS WHICH COULD IN TURN UNDERMINE OTHER DUTCH DEFENSE PROGRAMS. VREDELING IS, HOWEVER, AMENABLE TO PUTTING THE LANCE FUNDS INTO THE HAWK IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, A STEP WHICH THE GERMANS UNDERSTOOD WOULD NOT MEAN A DECREASE IN DUTCH DEFENSE EXPENDITURES.

2. TREBESCH ASKED US TO HOLD CLOSE INFORMATION CONCERN-
ING THE LEBER- VREDELING CONSULTATION. APPARENTLY, THE
DUTCH DEFMIN' S PERSONAL POLITICAL FORTUNES COULD BE
AFFECTED IF IT WERE TO BECOME WIDELY KNOWN THAT HE AND
LEBER HOPE TO WORK AND CONSULT CLOSELY TOGETHER.
HILLENBRAND

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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30 JUN 2005

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TAGS: MILI, PFOR, GW, MILI
To: EUR
LONDON
NATO BRUSSELS
PARIS
SECSTATE WASHDC
THE HAGUE
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS

WASHDC

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